

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0143

EO 11652: XGDS- EXPIRES 1998
TAGS: PINT IT PINR
SUBJECT: SBIO MATERIAL ON DAVIDE LAJOLO

1. LONGTIME CONSULATE CONTACT GUELFO ZACCARIA, SOMETIME JOURNALIST WHO KNOWS ITALIAN PRESS WORLD IN BREATHTAKING DETAIL, HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF DAVIDE LAJOLO.; LATTER IS EDITOR OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE GIORNI AND AUTHOR, IN FEB 2. ISSUE, OF NASTY AND UNTRUTHFUL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GARDNER.

2. LAJOLO, SAID ZACCARIA, HAS BEEN EDITOR OF GIORNI FOR WELL OVER DECADE, MAGAZINE WAS FOUNDED BY LUIGI LONGO ABOUT 1947 AS VIE NUOVE AND UNTIL ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO WAS OFFICIAL PCI ORGAN. FINANCED BY PCI DOMINATED LEAGUE OF COOPERATIVES, IT IS STILL COMMUNIST MOUTHPIECE BUT ONLY SEMI-OFFICIALLY SO.

3. LAJOLO AND HIS MAGAZINE DID CURIOUS FLIP-FLOP DURING PERIOD OF RUSSIAN INVASION OF CZEJHOSLOVAKIA. HE FIRST DEFENDED RUSSIAN ACTION, EVEN AFTER PCI HAD CONDEMNED IT. SO DOGGEDLY DID HE PURSUE THIS LINE THAT SOME COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES ACCUSED HIM OF BEING IN PAY OF RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR. AFTER YEAR OR SO HE DID COMPLETE TURNAROUND, PUBLISHING CLAMOROUS INTERVIEW WITH ONE SBERKOLSKI (SPELLING?), NUMBER TWO AMONG CZECH NATIONALISTS AFTER DUBCEK, THAT MARKED BEGINNING OF VIOULENTLY ANTI-SOVIET PHASE. COMMUNISTS AGAIN
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CRITICIZED HIM, THIS TIME FOR GOING OVERBOARD IN CRITICISM OF USSR.

4. LAJOLO WAS SEVERAL-TERM DEPUTY, UNTIL 1976. HE WAS ON PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BUT IS NO LONGER, AND IS FORMER EDITOR OF L'UNITA'. HE IS ALSO FORMER FASCIST WHO ALLEGEDLY DID NOT SEE LIGHT UNTIL MID-1944. (ANOTHER SOURCE TOLD US HE PUBLISHED

BOOK ON MUSSOLINI IN 1936.) TODAY HE IS WELL-KNOWN AND
REASONABLY WEIGHTY LEFTIST PRESS FIGURE.

5. ZACCARIA, SOURCE OF ABOVE, IS FORMER COMMUNIST WITH NO LOVE
FOR FORMER COMRADES OR THEIR ORIENTATION. HE IS, HOWEVER, MAN WHO
IN OUR EXPERIENCE KNOWS WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT WHERE ITALIAN
PRESS AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES ARE CONCERNED.FINA

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